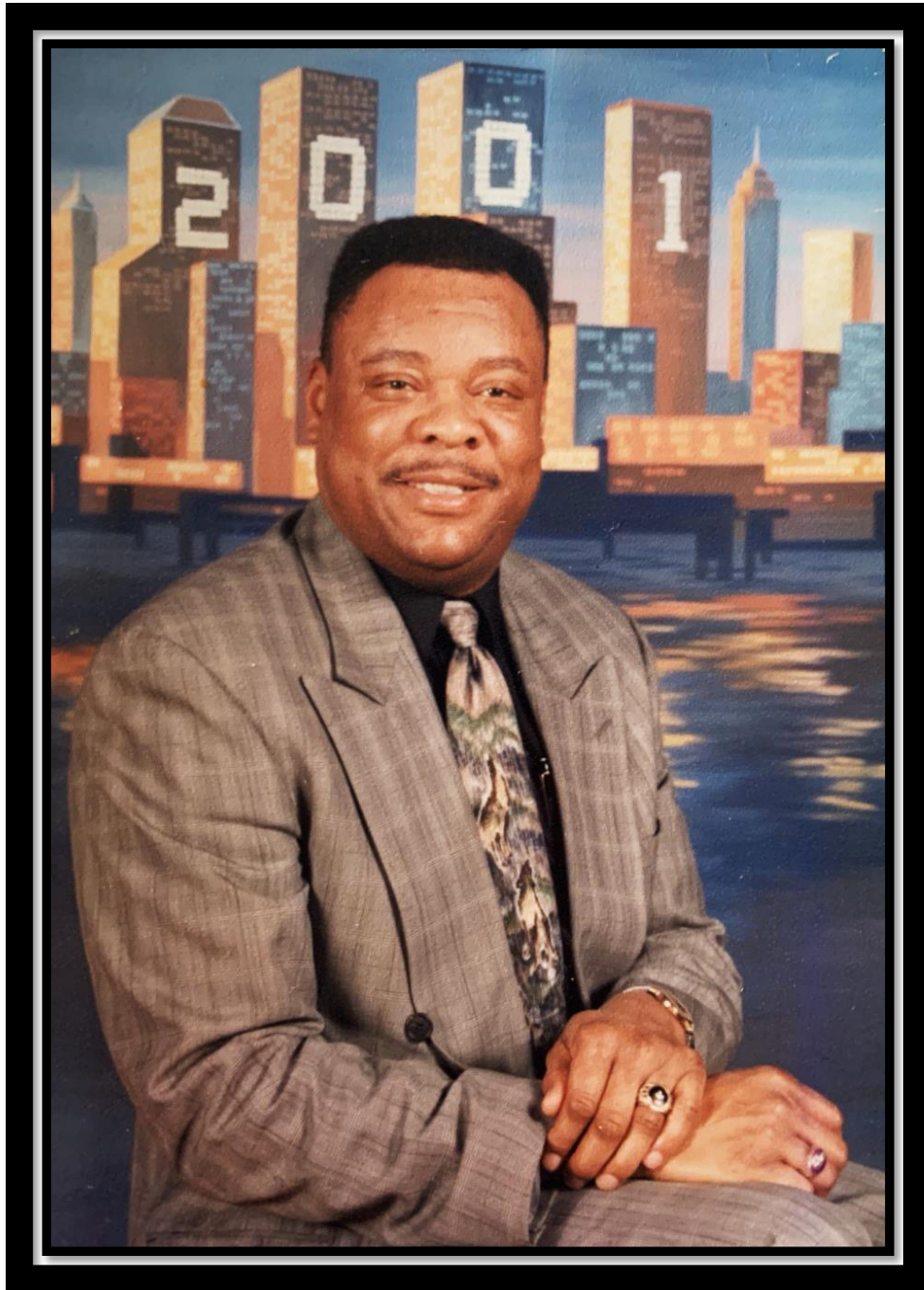


Celebrating the Life Of



Duane "Smitty" Douglas Smith

Sunrise March 16, 1956

Sunset May 5, 2020

Service Friday, May 22, 2020 – 4 pm Via Zoom

Duane Douglas Smith

Order of Service

Video Presentation ————— Owusu Afriyie

Presider / Spirituality ————— Professor James Small

Central State University ————— Michael "Wolfy" Richberg

Board of Education ————— Debra Keyes

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons ————— Eric Keyes

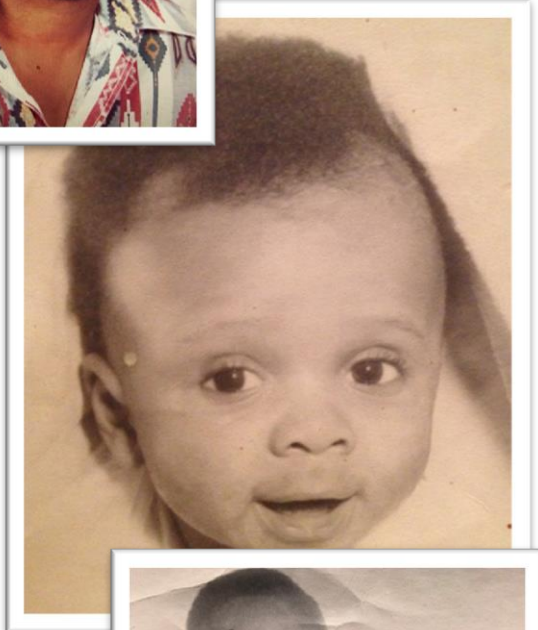
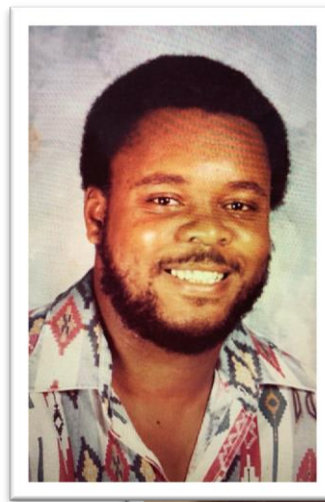
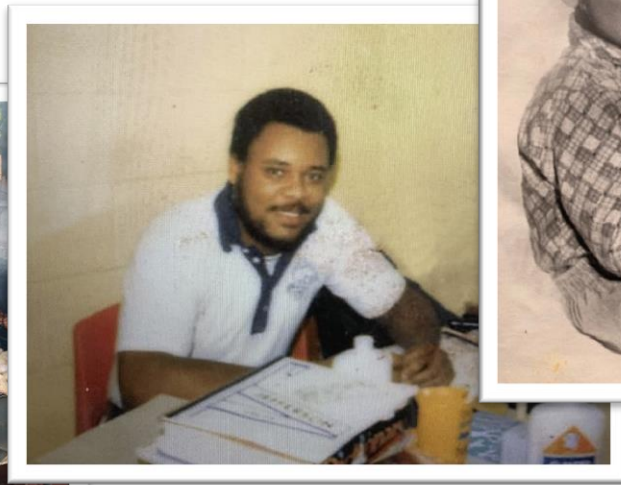
Obituary Reading ————— Michelle Saunders Smith

Family Tributes — Dorienne Smith, Dr. Denise Smith Allen, Daryl Clark

Acknowledgements and Proclamations

Closing Sentiments

Videos



Our Family Thanks Each and Every One of You for All the Acts of Kindness Displayed During This Difficult Time

Duane Douglas Smith was born on March 16, 1956 in Queens, New York to Fannie Walters (Smith) Clark and Peter Smith. He passed away at his home in upstate New York on May 5, 2020.

Duane grew up in Queens. He attended Bryant Middle School. After high school he left New York to attend Central State University (CSU) in Ohio, earning his Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in Art in June 1978.

During his time at CSU he was a defensive lineman on the football team (CSU Marauders). He also excelled in basketball, earning him the nickname the "rifleman" because he would not miss the jump shots. In addition to his studies and sport affiliations, Duane worked as a paramedic and a firefighter while pursuing his bachelor's degree.

After graduating from college, he began his teaching career in Ohio where he met his first wife Donna Fields. From that union Dorianne was born in 1984. He subsequently moved back to New York and began teaching at Castle Hill Middle School 127.

Duane returned to school to earn two Masters of Science degrees in Education in 1994 and 1998. He worked as a Special Education Teacher, Dean, and Assistant Principal during his tenure until his retirement from the Board of Education in November 2013, after 30 years of service.

He was focused and intellectually gifted. He was not afraid to try new things or live new experiences. Duane earned a number of certificates including his certification as a Phlebotomist (2010) and a Basic Life Saving (BLS) Instructor (2016). His gifts and talents know no boundaries. He was a gifted sculptor and his works can be found in the homes of many loved ones. He was also a calligrapher penning many documents for various organizations.

Duane loved to travel and especially loved to drive. He frequently drove to Ohio to connect with college and fraternity friends and always took time to drive to see his daughter Dorianne, wherever he was. It was on his trip to Ghana, West Africa (2005) where he met his current wife, Michelle Saunders. They married in October 2012. Anyone who knows Duane remembers hearing him reminisce about how he had to travel 5000 miles to meet the love of his life.

Duane belonged to several organizations. He was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on April 21, 1984. He was Que Dog for life. He was initiated into the brotherhood of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.) of the Hiram Grand Lodge 1989 where he served as a Grand Secretary, Treasurer, Past Master, and Potentate of Omar Temple. He was also recognized as Inspector General 33rd degree 2006 in New York. His home lodge, Fidelity Lodge #32, is located in Harlem New York.

Duane leaves to cherish his sweet memories wife, Michelle Saunders Smith, daughter, Dorianne Smith, stepdaughter, Tiana McFarlane, sister, Dr. Denise (Fred) Smith Allen, brother, Daryl Clark, nephews, Joaquin (Jameeka) Sharpe and Kenneth (Heather) Mitchell, grandnephews, Joaquin Sharpe Jr. and, Rashawn Conners, grand nieces, Janae Capri and Jazmine Peters, Carter Mitchell, step grandson, Ahmad Chandler, cousins, Billy Walters, Jintz Coleman-Bagwell, Suesan

Coleman, Happiness Ali, Tommy Ball, Brian (Sonia) and Judge Ellen Edwards, and a host of other cousins and extended family.

Duane was loved and admired. He lived life on his own terms. He enjoyed gathering with family and friends. One of his favorite pastimes was grilling on the barbeque. He always wound up behind the BBQ pit regardless if he was hosting the event or not. He enjoyed being the “Grill-master”. He loved to watch sports - namely football, basketball, and baseball, especially during playoff time. His favorite football team was the Raiders. One of Duane’s favorite quote was “Every day I wake up is a good day”. Following is his favorite poem:

Invictus
by William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds. And shall find, me unafraid

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeoning of chance
My head is bloody but unbowed

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate
I am the captain of my soul

Duane was preceded in death by his mother Ms. Fannie S. Clark, his sister Donna Smith, his stepfather Wilbert Clark, his stepbrother Wilbert Clark Jr., and his father Peter Smith.

Acknowledgements

Owusu Afriyie for compiling the videography
Derrick Biney-Ammisah, Dorianne Smith, and Donna Fields Harper for co-hosting the homegoing service

The family of the late **Duane Douglas Smith** wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation, the calls, the many prayers, expressions of love, gratitude, and concern shown to us during our time of sorrow.

Psalm 37:23-25

²³ The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

²⁵ I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.